

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 987

AMCONSUL LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 102

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE-SELF-DETERMINATION MOVEMENTS

REFERENCE: PONTA DELGADA 090; SECSTATE 116770

1. CAMARA HAS AGAIN APPROACHED CONSULATE RE POSSIBILITY OBTAINING US BACKING AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT. CONSULATE OFFICER REPLIED ALONG LINES SUGGESTED DEPARTMENT'S REFTEL. CAMARA DID NOT INSIST ON MEETING. SINCE PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH CAMARA IT NOW CLEAR THAT, DESPITE CLAIMS, HE DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY SPEAK FOR ANY BROAD-BASED INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT (RATHER, SEVERAL GROUPS CURRENTLY EXIST THROUGHOUT ARCHIPELAGO ADVOCATING VARYING DEGREES OF INCREASED AZOREAN AUTONOMY FROM LISBON. APPARENTLY MINIMAL CONTACT BETWEEN GROUPS AND DEFINITELY NO CENTRAL AUTHORITY.

2. THIS MORNING MANIFESTO OF PONTA DELGADA GROUP CALLING SELF "MOVEMENT FOR SELF DETERMINATION OF AZOREAN PEOPLE" (MAPA) PUBLISHED IN DISTRICT'S LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY "CORREIO DOS ACORES". MANIFESTO ALSO BROADCAST OVER PRIVATE RADIO STATION SANTA MARIA. MANIFESTO (BEING POUCHED TODAY) ADVOCATES SELF-DETERMINATION AS ALTERNATIVE TO INSULAR PARTICIPATION IN CONVENTIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES WHERE SPECIFICALLY AZOREAN INTEREST LIKELY TO BE SUBMERGED IN SEA OF PROBLEMS

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FACING CONTINENTAL PORTUGAL. ALSO PROPOSES DETAILED PROGRAM

FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AZORES INCLUDING OPENING FREE PORTS, DEVELOPMENT OF GEO THERMAL ENERGY AND REVIEW OF FOREIGN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS IN AZORES WITH VIEW TOWARD MAXIMIZING BENEFITS TO ISLANDS. MANIFESTO WAS NOT SIGNED.

3. AS DOCUMENT PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED SECRETLY, PROBABLE THIS IS "MANIFESTO" OF WHICH CAMARA INFORMED CONSULAR (PARAGRAPH 1 OF OUR REFTEL). CAMARA'S STORY RE TAKEOVER OF NEWSPAPER "ACORES" APPARENTLY A FABRICATION. WELL INFORMED SOURCE INDICATES CAMARA CENTER OF SMALL CIRCLE PERHAPS HALF DOZEN WEALTHY ISLANDERS SHARING RABID FEAR OF SPREAD ANARCHY AND COMMUNISM IN PORTUGAL. CAMARA HAS REPORTEDLY APPROACHED MAPA RE COOPERATION WITH HIS GROUP, BUT HAS BEEN REBUFFED.

4. NOT YET POSSIBLE DETERMINE WHAT REACTION MAPA MANIFESTO WILL ELICIT FROM AZOREANS. LIKELY THAT MOST WILL AGREE WITH DOCUMENTS LINE OF ARGUMENT AND WILL ENDORSE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS. WHETHER OR NOT THIS WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR SELF DETERMINATION MOVEMENT IS UNCERTAIN. PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED AZOREAN POLITICAL MOVEMENTS WITH STRONG TIES TO MAJOR PARTIES IN LISBON, CAN BE EXPECTED ATTACK MAPA. AN ESPECIALLY STRONG REACTION IS EXPECTED FROM MOTA AMARAL'S AZOREAN POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH APPEALS TO MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASS ELECTORATE MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT MAPA PROGRAM.

5. POTENTIAL SOURCE EMBARRASSMENT TO USG EXISTS IF MAPA BECOMES ACTIVE POLITICALLY. CONSULATE EMPLOYEE VICTOR CRUZ IS GENERALLY KNOWN TO BE MAJOR FIGURE IN MAPA. HE STATES THAT HE HAS TAKEN GREAT PAINS TO DISASSOCIATE HIS POLITICAL WORK FROM ANY CONNECTION TO THE CONSULATE. IT IS, HOWEVER, POSSIBLE THAT SOME ELEMENTS HERE WILL SEE MAPA AS CREATION OF USG. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE IN RESPONDING TO ANY ALLEGATIONS OF THIS NATURE WHICH MAY ARISE.

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